

Germany's destruction of three American vessels with possible loss of twenty American lives leaves no question that the kaiser has forced this government into a state of war. It probably will have been found to have existed since the American steamer Algonquin was sunk last Wednesday.

The state of "armed neutrality" in which this government was placed by the president continues, although it apparently has failed of its object to prevent sinking of such ships as the Laconia, Algonquin, the City of Memphis, the Illinois and the Vigilancia.

That the president, as his next step, would call congress in extra session even before its scheduled meeting date, April 16, was deemed likely by some, though the preponderant view was that he would have them assemble the 16th, then inform them that a state of war had existed since March 18 and ask real war measures.

The navy may be called upon to take a vigorous hand, searching out and destroying submarines.

Any call for an army undoubtedly will await full authorization from congress under a declaration of war.

The messages thus far at hand left but little hope that no American lives had been sacrificed.

Despite the fact that the United States is nearer a call to arms today, there is unruffled calm in Washington, not only among officials but among the people of the capital.

Apparently Washington, through ever-recurring experience with international shocks, is no longer susceptible to emotion. There is no war spirit in evidence.

London, March 19.—Shortly before noon today United States consular reports to American embassy here declared the captain's boat of torpedoed American steamer City of Memphis was still unaccounted for. There were eight men in this boat.

In all twenty-two men of the crews

of two of the three American ships sunk by German submarines were missing today.

The three ships were the American steamers Vigilancia, City of Memphis and Illinois. All of the crew of the last named were safely landed.

The Vigilancia was struck by a torpedo without warning. Lookouts did not even see the periscope of the submarine, nor did the U-boat emerge from the sea after the ship had been struck her death blow.

The City of Memphis was first struck by shell fire from the submarine and then sunk by a torpedo.

Sec'y Lansing left the White House shortly after noon, refusing to comment in any way regarding his hour's conference with the president.

Mobilizing its forces today, the navy department appealed to American boat builders for construction of submarine "chasers" to patrol American waters and prepared to put into effect the commandeering of all private motorboats of sufficient size and speed to meet the requirements of anti-submarine warfare. That the department wants to act swiftly was apparent by the fact that the bids for the submarine chasers were to be opened Wednesday. Usually such bids are advertised for a considerable time in advance of their opening. In connection with plans for commandeering private craft, it is known naval boards in every coast state have listed all available vessels and drawn tentative contracts for their transfer to the naval service. Telegraph orders from the department at Washington to close the contracts and take over the ships would be all that is necessary, the department stated.

Boats as small as 85 feet, and possibly smaller, will be subject to selection.

**BOAT OF CITY OF MEMPHIS
CAPTAIN PICKED UP EMPTY**
Washington, March 19.—Fear that